



Colby College freshman Blake Steiert and Dustin Hackett of Pratt Community College locked up during a dual meet Wednesday at the Community Building.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Community College

Trojans' wrestling team falls to Pratt in home dual

The Trojans' wrestling squad lost to Pratt Community College 24-16 in a dual meet Wednesday at the Community Building, but not without some good performances by Colby wrestlers.

Colby College sophomore Fabian Guerrero beat Xavier Fisher 3-1 in the 285 pound class, earning two points off a reverse in the final seconds of the third round.

Freshman Blake Steiert pinned Dustin Hackett with a little under 16 seconds left in the third round at 197. Steiert was leading Hackett 8-2 before he got the pin. The match had to be stopped on several occasions because Hackett had a cut on his head that kept busting open.

Freshman Jace Campbell led Cody Wildin 5-4 at 141 after two

rounds. He got an escape in the finals seconds of the third round and won the match 6-4. Sophomore Jerad Shroeder shut out Nick Schwager 7-0. Schroeder got two points off a takedown in the first round. He went on to score five more points in the next two rounds.

Trojans' freshman Cody Stewart was pinned by Jeffrey Clements with 1:14 left in the third. Freshman Sean Cherry lost to Dylan Walker 10-6 at 174. Freshman Jensen Foss was defeated by Alex Feldkamp 9-4. Foss was favoring his ribs for most of the match.

Colby freshman Marco Tamayo was pinned by Jesse Barber in the first round at 125. Barber is ranked No. 4 by the National Junior College Athletic Association

in his weight.

Trojans' freshman Kane Lovvorn lost to Jose Sanchez 9-4 at 133 and Keegan Smith beat Colby freshman Nick Rimpley 3-1 at 157.

Steiert and Rimpley both reached the semifinals at the Dan Harris Open at Baker University in Baldwin City on Sunday with 4-1 records.

Tamayo finished second at 125 at the Labette Takedown tournament in Parsons on Saturday. Rimpley and Steiert came in fourth at 157 and 197.

The Colby team will wrestle in the annual Cowboy Open on Saturday at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Kansas City linebacker overcomes early troubles

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — His quiet, humble spirit has helped make Derrick Johnson a rich man.

Instead of seething when Kansas City coach Todd Haley benched him last year, Johnson hunkered down and worked harder than he'd ever worked in his life.

Going all the way back to the playgrounds of Waco, the former star linebacker at Texas could not remember a time when he was not only a starter, but also just about the best player on his team. Now the Chiefs were using him only in certain situations and seemed to be saying that the team's new coaching staff did not see him as a player they wanted to build around.

Faced with being humbled for the first time in what had always been a charmed life, a lot of athletes would rebel. Johnson, after all, had been the national defensive player of the year when the Chiefs drafted him in the first round in 2005.

But heeding lessons he learned growing up in a stern but loving home, Johnson kept his mouth shut. He tried to maintain a positive attitude. He never complained, never grumbled.

Now he leads the Chiefs with 79 tackles and the ink is drying on

a five-year contract extension that could be worth as much as \$34 million. Once again, he's a star player on a winning team.

Instead of saying, 'Hi, mom,' when cameras catch him on the sideline, Johnson would probably say, 'Thanks, mom!'

"She taught me to stay humble. Believe in God. Know that something good will happen if you just keep working hard. It paid off for me," Johnson said Wednesday with a big smile.

A sixth-grade math teacher, Beverly Johnson was not a mom to be trifled with.

"She instilled a lot of education and a lot of discipline," said Johnson. "She was really strict on me when I was a kid. I got to know right from wrong. She's a big part of why my character is strong now."

For Haley and what he calls his "transitioning" football team, Johnson brings a bonus — something besides outstanding plays such as tying an NFL record last year by returning two interceptions for touchdowns against Denver.

He is also living proof of what can happen when a player buys into what the Chiefs are selling. Work hard, hang tough, accept discipline and the opportunities

on this team are limitless.

It's something Haley steps gingerly around.

"As we go through this process there are going to be guys, that it becomes clear to us that are the right kinds of guys," Haley said. "And at the same time, it becomes clear to players that maybe, 'This is where I want to be. This is the way I want to do things, and I want to be a part of this.'"

Haley never indicated why Johnson was not starting.

"All I saw was a player that pushed his chips in and made it clear he wanted to be part of this and wasn't going to be denied," he said. "The more guys you have like that who are doing that, who are willing to push them all in and say, 'Let's do this,' the better chance you have. And we're getting more and more, and that's a real good thing for the Kansas City Chiefs."

Johnson acknowledges he had to work to fend off despair during his long season of 2009.

"I didn't have it all planned out how it was going to happen. I left that up to God," he said. "But at the same time, I knew that it was in my best interest to just keep working. Stay humble. Doing the right thing is going to pay off, sooner or later."



Mary Zerr

A Colby team made up of third and fourth graders took first in a tournament at Valley Center last weekend. The squad won two games on Saturday and they beat Augusta 19-14 in the championship on Sunday.

Lady Bulldogs finish season

By Tiffani Hapke

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School volleyball team failed to pick up a win in the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament at Sharon Springs on Oct. 26, losing to the Grinnell/Wheatland Thunderhawks, the Dighton Hornets and the Cheylin Cougars.

The girls' first match was against the Lady Thunderhawks. The Bulldogs lost the first set 25-14 and the second 25-20.

The Lady Bulldogs' second match was against Dighton. The girls fell to the Hornets 25-23 in the

first set and they lost the second 25-17.

Golden Plains faced Cheylin in their last match of the day. The Cougars slipped by the Lady Bulldogs 28-26 in the first set, but the girls bounced back and won the second 25-22. Cheylin came back and won the third set 25-19.

"Tuesday was a long, trying day," coach Ashley Aramberger said. "At times, the girls played quite well, but we failed to put together an entire match."

The Golden Plains A-team ended the season with a 5-7 record, the B-team went 3-5, and the C-team was 2-2.

Broncos focus on playing well early

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — The Denver Broncos believe a turnaround starts with better starts.

The Broncos have been outscored 40-7 in the first quarter, a big reason for their 2-6 record, their worst at the halfway point in more than a decade.

They returned from their bye week Tuesday intent on fixing a plethora of problems on offense, defense and in the kicking game, and chief among the potential fixes are faster starts.

Better beginnings top the team's to-do list because they would help the Broncos dictate the rhythm of games for a change, provide much-needed balance in play-call-

ing and take some pressure off an overused defense, wide receiver Eddie Royal said.

"And just for momentum purposes," he said. "You get started early, that gives you a boost on offense and that kind of helps the defense out early and then you're kind of in the driver's seat if you're scoring early in the game."

The Broncos have been shut out in the first quarter in every game since Sept. 19.

The Broncos got several injured players back onto the field Tuesday, including Perrish Cox, Wesley Woodyard, Kevin Vickerson and Marcel McBeth on defense, and McDaniels said the break also helped quarterback Kyle Orton,

who suffered bruised ribs in Denver's last game.

"He's OK. I mean, he's sore. I don't want to speak for him, but I think sore but overall fine," McDaniels said.

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